

## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.     A pressure plate assembly for a friction clutch, comprising
- 2           a housing having an axis of rotation,
- 3           a pressure plate mounted in said housing with freedom to move axially
- 4   relative to said housing,
- 5           a stored energy element mounted in said housing and transmitting force
- 6   along a path from said housing to said pressure plate,
- 7           a wear-compensating device in the path of force transmission, said wear-
- 8   compensating device comprising at least one adjusting element which is movable in a
- 9   circumferential direction to compensate for wear, said adjusting element having a
- 10   recess with a circumferential length;
- 11           a blocking element which can be fixed in position relative to said housing,
- 12           a gripping element attached to said pressure plate, said gripping element
- 13   blocking said at least one adjusting element against movement in said adjusting
- 14   direction before wear occurs, said gripping element coming into contact with said
- 15   blocking element when wear occurs, and
- 16           an arresting element which can be shifted in an arresting direction when
- 17   said gripping element comes into contact with said blocking element, thereby arresting
- 18   the gripping element in a position corresponding to the amount of wear which has
- 19   occurred, said arresting element having an arresting section which extends into said
- 20   recess of said adjusting element and has a circumferential length which is less than the

21 circumferential length of said recess, whereby said arresting section can shift relative to  
22 the adjusting element when said gripping element comes into contact with said blocking  
23 element, and said adjusting element can shift relative to said arresting element when  
24 the force transmitted by the stored energy element is interrupted.